



California State Assembly

Bonnie Lowenthal

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 54TH DISTRICT

Dear Student,

Preparing and applying for college can be a challenging process.

Hopefully, this brochure will help guide you through the process. Included are timelines, tips on writing the admissions essay, and a list of useful phone numbers and websites.

I hold education as one of my top priorities and support efforts to extend educational opportunities to everyone. Please take advantage of this brochure and use it as your map to a successful future.

If you need further assistance with preparing and applying for college or financial aid, please do not hesitate to contact my district office.

Sincerely,

BONNIE LOWENTHAL

Assemblymember, 54th District

WHY CONSIDER COLLEGE?

A college degree can open doors and provide many opportunities. A college education means:

ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE

A college education will increase a person's ability to think abstractly and critically, analyze information, express thoughts clearly in speech and in writing, and make wise decisions. These skills are useful both on and off the job.

GREATER POTENTIAL

A higher education can increase a person's understanding of the community, the nation, and the world – as he or she explores interests, discovers new areas of knowledge, considers lifelong goals, and becomes a responsible citizen. A college education also provides greater knowledge of and appreciation for different ideas, philosophies, cultures, and people.

A college education provides students with an increased network of references for a future career. What students do in college is as important as their grades because the contacts and friends they make will be the people who support them when they begin to look for a job.

INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The world is changing rapidly. Many jobs rely on new ideas and technology, and already require more brain power than muscle power. In a person's working life, many jobs will require education beyond high school. A college education will increase the number and variety of jobs from which a person can choose. A college degree often leads to higher income, a better standard of living, and a more satisfying career.

Compliments of

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Bonnie Lowenthal

District Office:

110 Pine Avenue, Suite 804
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 495-2915
Fax: (562) 495-2983

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0054
(916) 319-2054
Fax: (916) 319-2154

E-mail:

Assemblymember.Lowenthal@assembly.ca.gov

Website:

www.asm.ca.gov/lowenthal

Assembly Website:



www.asm.ca.gov

HOW TO APPLY FOR COLLEGE





YOUR TIMELINE

  *The dates below are general deadlines. Please check with each college admissions office for their specific deadlines.*

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Talk with your parents about college.
- Become involved with extracurricular activities and take on leadership positions.
- Develop efficient studying techniques.
- Take courses in preparation for college.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Attend college and financial aid events.
- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Take the SAT or ACT, and SATII in the spring.
- Visit colleges that may interest you.
- Enrollment or Admissions counselor.

SENIOR YEAR

AUGUST

- Colleges mail applications to interested students.
- Visit colleges that may interest you.

SEPTEMBER

- Meet your guidance counselor and talk about your college plans.
- Write and rewrite your personal statements.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- Take the ACT or SAT.
- CSS Financial Aid Profile Registration deadline for early admissions.

- Begin submitting college applications (check each college campus for their early and regular decision application deadlines).
- Plan to get any teacher letters of recommendation that may be required.

DECEMBER

- Decisions mailed to early decision applicants.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Deadline for CSS Financial Aid Profile Application for regular admissions.
- Deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Reply deadline for admitted early decision students.

APRIL



- Decisions mailed to all regular decision applicants.
- Some colleges provide notification of financial aid awards in the same mailing.
- Complete remaining tasks for admissions applications.
- Attend on-campus programs for admitted students.

MAY



- Reply deadlines for admitted regular decision students.
- Thank any teachers/counselors and anyone else who wrote recommendations for you.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

- Attend on-campus orientation programs.
- Finalize your housing plans.
- Shop for items you will need for college.
- Register for first-semester courses.

  *This timeline is a general guide and will not apply to all colleges. Consult college websites for its specific requirements and deadlines.*

THE ADMISSIONS ESSAY

  *Along with your academic record and test scores, the admissions essay serves as another important aspect of your college application. It allows the admissions officer to see the personal side of you and how much you can contribute to the college or university.*

Below are some suggestions to make your admissions essay successful:

- Use your own words; don't use big words trying to impress others.
- Write honestly, naturally, and concisely.
- Use proper grammar and punctuation, not slang.
- Personalize your essay as much as possible. Allow your personality to shine through.
- Provide details to keep the story colorful.
- Write about your own unique, funny, interesting experiences.
- Tell a story in a relaxed, conversational style.
- Convey a positive message (avoid cynicism).
- Write about topics you are passionate about.
- Use analogies to convey your message.
- Use logical paragraph breaks.
- Use active voice verbs.
- Use a large font that is easy to read.
- Proofread and revise several times; get feedback from valued sources.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

American College Testing Program (ACT)
(319) 337-1000

College Board (PSAT, SAT, and SATII)
(800) 239-5888

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
(800) 433-3243

USEFUL WEBSITES

Register on-line for the American College Test
www.act.org

Provides information for parents, students, and counselors
www.hecaonline.org

Register online for the SAT and SATII tests, and the College Scholarship Service Profile
www.collegeboard.org

Contains an online database of colleges with related information
www.collegenet.com

Register online for the FAFSA **www.fafsa.ed.gov**

Contains an online database of privately sponsored scholarships
www.fastweb.com

Provides general information on financial aid
www.finaid.org

Download applications for CSU schools
www.csumentor.edu

Download applications for the UC System
www.ucop.edu

Download the Common Application
www.commonapp.org

